

CIRCULAR COMMUNICATION TO COMMISSIONERS
AND CONTRACTING GOVERNMENTS
IWC.CCG.503

**Chair of the Revised Management Scheme (RMS) Working Group and
venue and dates of the RMS intersessional meeting**

RMS Working Group Chair

Henrik Fischer, Chair of the Commission, has asked me to inform Commissioners and Contracting Governments that he is stepping down as Chair of the RMS Working Group. His reasons are threefold: (1) he has a number of other planned commitments that require his attention between now and IWC/58 in St Kitts and Nevis; (2) he has chaired the RMS Working Group for four years (the usual duration for sub-group chairs is three years); and (3) it is contrary to IWC-practice for the Chair of the Commission to also chair Commission sub-groups.

Henrik has appointed Mike Tillman of the USA to act as Convenor of the RMS Working Group. Mike has agreed to do so and has also indicated that he is prepared to act as Chair of the Group should the Working Group agree at its next meeting.

Venue and dates for the RMS intersessional meeting

You will recall that via Resolution 2005-4 adopted in Ulsan, the Commission agreed to hold an intersessional meeting to advance the work of the RMS Working Group and that of the Small Drafting Group (as established by Resolution 2004-6), with a particular emphasis on any outstanding issues and taking as a starting point the Group's report to the Commission (i.e. IWC/57/RMS 3).

In Ulsan, the Commission did not decide on a venue or specific timing for the intersessional meeting, although it was agreed that a meeting some time in February 2006 would be appropriate. In the absence of any offers from Contracting Governments to host the meeting, the Secretariat has made arrangements for it to be held at the University Arms Hotel in Cambridge from Tuesday 28 February to Thursday 2 March 2006. In selecting these dates, the Secretariat has attempted to avoid clashes with major meetings of other fisheries bodies, Conventions and FAO that may cause attendance problems for member governments.

I will be in touch again shortly with further information about the meeting in Cambridge.

Dr. Nicky Grandy
Secretary to the Commission